

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 OECD PARIS 09721

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SUBJECT: OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE WP-1 ON MULTINATIONAL
ENTERPRISES, APRIL 8-11, 1975

REFS: (A) DST I/IND1/75.3

(B) DST I/IND1/75.4

(C) DST I/IND1/75.5

(D) DST I/IND1/CONT. 175.1

(E) DST I/IND1/75.9

(F) DST I/IND1/75.2 PLUS ADD.

(G) DST I/IND1/74.16

1. SUMMARY. WP-1 MEETING CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON CONTINUING PREPARATIONS FOR DEVELOPING MINIMUM SYSTEM OF MNE STATISTICS. POLICY WORK RECEIVED LESS TIME AND ATTENTION. APRIL 8 AND 9 SPECIAL SESSIONS OF INFORMAL STATISTICAL SUB-GROUP COMPLETED DRAFT OF FINAL WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR FOURTEEN KEY ITEMS WHICH WILL FORM BASIS FOR FUTURE STATISTICAL WORK. DEFINITIONS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY FULL COMMITTEE FOR INCLUSION IN WP'S FORTH-
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COMING STATISTICAL QUESTIONNAIRE IN NINE SELECTED

INDUSTRIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. FULL COMMITTEE, APRIL 10 AND 11, HEARD EC COMMISSION STATEMENT ON ITS WORK ON MNE'S AND U.S., GERMANY AND DENMARK BRIEFED WP ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FDI AREA. LIVELY AND LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF NEW FORMAT OF FUTURE COUNTRY POLICY STATEMENTS TOOK MAJOR PART OF REMAINING MEETINGS AND INCLUDED CONTROVERSIAL SECRETARIAT PAPER AND U.K. STUDY ON MNE ROLE IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES. CANADA TABLED PROPOSALS FOR RELATIONSHIP OF MNE'S TO HOST COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. FUTURE WORK PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON MNE BEHAVIOR OF ECONOMIC SLUMP IN MANY COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS, PLANT CLOSEDOWNS, INVESTMENT INTENTIONS. COMPANY DISCLOSURE REGULATIONS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROVAL OF WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR STATISTICAL KEY CONCEPTS (REF A): OPENING SESSION OF STATISTICAL SUB-GROUP REVIEWED MEMBER SUBMISSIONS OF WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR FOURTEEN KEY ITEMS TO FORM BASIS FOR WP'S FUTURE WORK ON MNE STATISTICS. DISCUSSIONS REFLECTED MAJOR DIFFERENCES AMONG DELEGATIONS IN USE OF STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATION OF CONCEPTS. U.S. DEL NOTED DIVERGENCIES OF SOME U.S. STATISTICAL CONCEPTS FROM SUGGESTED DEFINITIONS. SIMILAR POINTS MADE BY CANADA, U.K., GERMANY, AUSTRALIA. FOLLOWING LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS, SPECIAL DRAFTING GROUP, IN WHICH U.S. PARTICIPATED, PREPARED FINAL WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL BY FULL COMMITTEE. TO RECONCILE PERSISTENT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AGREEMENT FINALLY REACHED THAT COUNTRIES WITH EXISTING STATISTICS ON MNE'S CONTINUE TO USE, FOR PRESENT, TRADITIONAL DEFINITIONS IN THEIR REPORTS TO WP, FOOTNOTING DIVERGENCIES FROM WP DEFINITIONS. HOWEVER, WP URGED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE BY ALL MEMBERS TO ADHERE IN DUE TIME TO WP DEFINITIONS. WORKING DRAFT AND RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY FULL COMMITTEE. AGREED DEFINITIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL BEFORE SUMMER RECESS. IF ACCEPTED, THEY WILL REPLACE DEFINITIONS IN DOC. DIE/IND1/74.3. WP WILL ALSO SUGGEST TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE THAT COUNCIL

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RECOMMEND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ADAPT THEIR STATISTICAL SYSTEMS ("AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS") TO AGREED WP DEFINITIONS FOR THE FOURTEEN KEY ITEMS.

3. REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION (REF B): LACK OF ADEQUATE DATA IN MOST COUNTRIES ON FOURTEEN KEY ITEMS CAUSED STATISTICAL SUB-GROUP TO SUGGEST THAT INITIAL DATA-GATHERING BE LIMITED TO THREE

ITEMS, I.E. NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS/ENTERPRISES/ENTERPRISE GROUPS; NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, AND GROSS OUTPUT. ALTHOUGH THESE ITEMS NOT NECESSARILY MOST USEFUL AND SIGNIFICANT, THEY SEEM ONLY INFORMATION MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES ABLE TO COMPILE AT THIS TIME. SHORT

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QUESTIONNAIRE WAS DRAFTED ASKING FOR STATISTICS ON THESE THREE ITEMS IN TWO MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS AND NINE SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. TO BE INCLUDED ARE MNE'S WITH OVER 50 PERCENT, LESS THAN 50 PERCENT, AND ZERO FOREIGN PARTICIPATION. IF APPROVED, SECRETARIAT PLANS SEND OUT QUESTIONNAIRE, POSSIBLY ON SEMI-ANNUAL OR ANNUAL BASIS, TO KEEP ITS MNE STATISTICS CURRENT AND COMPLETE. U.S. POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WE WOULD PROVIDE DATA ON MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS, IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO FOR CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS SINCE EASY IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES MAY VIOLATE U.S. CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS. SOME COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM NORWAY, FINLAND, SWITZERLAND, DENMARK, AUSTRIA, ADMITTED SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

4. AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN AND FINLAND OBVIOUSLY DISSATISFIED WITH LIMITED FORMAT OF DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE AND U.S. DEL., SUPPORTED BY U.K. AND GERMANY, CAUTIONED AGAINST INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIES AND SUBSECTORS AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTY IN MOST COUNTRIES TO COMPILE EVEN LIMITED INFORMATION. TO GET DATA COLLECTION UNDER WAY, WP DECIDED IN FAVOR OF MODEST THREE-ITEM SYSTEM. UNCLASSIFIED

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5. FOLLOWING SECRETARIAT'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR INITIAL COUNTRY STATEMENTS, TURKEY REPORTED BRIEFLY ON RECENT FIRST STEPS TO GATHER MNE DATA. JAPANESE INFORMED GROUP OF NEW STUDY COVERING DIRECT INVESTMENTS OF WHICH AT LEAST 20 PERCENT FOREIGN OWNED. SWEDEN DISTRIBUTED GOVERNMENT STUDY ON 1973 OPERATIONS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN-OWNED MNE'S, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THEIR FINANCIAL PRACTICES. EC BRIEFED COMMITTEE ON ONGOING COMMISSION STUDY OF ALMOST 10,000 MNE'S WORLDWIDE. FIRST ATTEMPT TO COLLECT DESIRED INFO FROM ANNUAL REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLISHED MATERIAL FAILED. IN SECOND ATTEMPT, COMMISSION CONTACTED MNE'S DIRECTLY, ASKING TO FURNISH ON VOLUNTARY BASIS DATA ON NUMBER AND LOCATION OF AFFILIATED ESTABLISHMENTS, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND OUTPUT AS OF YEAR-END 1973. RESULTS TO BE AVAILABLE THIS FALL. EC DEL REPEATEDLY STRESSED INTENSE INTEREST OF EC COMMISSION IN UN DATA COLLECTION ON MNE'S AND OF AGREEMENT WITH UN COMMISSION TO COOPERATE AND EXCHANGE AVAILABLE INFORMATION. (SEVERAL OF THE WP DELEGATES ATTEND MEETINGS OF UN COMMISSION ON MNE'S.)

6. DATA COLLECTION ON JOINT VENTURES (REF B, SECTION 2(A)): CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION DEVELOPED RE WP CONCEPT OF JOINT VENTURE. CHAIRMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN CONTEXT OF WP'S STATISTICS, JOINT VENTURES DEFINED AS ENTERPRISES IN WHICH EQUITY OWNERSHIP DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN PARTIES INVOLVED (50/50 PERCENT). MOST DELS APPEARED UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INCLUDING SPECIAL 50/50 OWNERSHIP CATEGORY IN WP STATISTICS.

7. PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY STATEMENTS: DANISH PRESENTATION CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF TABULAR MATERIAL OF HIGHLY SUMMARIZED NATURE SUPPLEMENTED BY SHORT ORAL COMMENTS. DELEGATE UNDERLINED BENEFITS DANISH ECONOMY HAS DERIVED FROM FOREIGN-OWNED MNE'S IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGIES, MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW AS WELL AS PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, ALTHOUGH MOST FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN FORM OF TAKEOVERS RATHER THAN NEW INSTALLATIONS, WITH THE LATTER BEING PREFERABLE. STRESSED DENMARK'S LIBERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT. SUBSEQUENT QUES-

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TIONS DEALT WITH EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES
IN ATTRACTING COMPANIES TO SPECIFIED AREAS, CHANCES FOR
PASSAGE OF THE ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY BILL ON WORKER CO-
DETERMINATION AND CO-OWNERSHIP IN
INDUSTRY, AND EXPECTATIONS FOR FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF
RESTRICTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN BANKING.

8. U.S. DEL REVIEWED RECENT U.S. DEVELOPMENTS IN FDI
AREA. AFTER REPORTING ON PRESENT STATUS OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT STUDY, EXPLAINED PROVISIONS OF WILLIAMS BILL
AND STRESSED THAT BASICALLY ADMINISTRATION CONTEMPLATES
NO NEW AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE IN INVESTMENT PROCESS AND
NO CHANGE IN TREATMENT OF OECD-AREA INVESTMENT.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WELCOMED U.S. BRIEFING AS
FIRST ATTEMPT BY ANY MEMBER TO KEEP COMMITTEE INFORMED
AND ENCOURAGED WP MEMBERS TO FOLLOW AMERICAN EXAMPLE.

9. FOLLOWING AMERICAN BRIEFING, GERMAN DELEGATE
REAFFIRMED OPEN-DOOR POLICY TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT
REGARDLESS OF INVESTOR'S NATIONALITY, BUT MENTIONED
PROPOSALS BEFORE PARLIAMENT THAT WOULD REQUIRE FOREIGN

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GOVERNMENTS PLANNING SUBSTANTIAL ACQUISITIONS IN FRG TO
CONSULT ON INVESTMENTS BEFORE MAKING COMMITMENTS.

10. PORTUGUESE DEL REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT IN PROCESS
OF PUBLISHING A "CODE" FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

11. FORMAT OF FUTURE COUNTRY STATEMENTS: PENETRATION
AND CONCENTRATION OF MNE'S IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AND
INDUSTRIES (REFS C AND D): EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF
SECRETARIAT SUMMARY ON PENETRATION AND CONCENTRATION OF
MNE'S IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AND INDUSTRIES REVEALED
NUMEROUS INACCURACIES IN DATA SELECTION AND USE, AS WELL
AS OMISSIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF STATISTICAL CON-
CEPTS. GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS THAT PAPER'S CONCLUSIONS
WERE INVALID AND THAT PAPER "AT BEST, ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE."
CHAIRMAN RECOMMENDED GROUP WAIT FOR NEW PENETRATION
AND CONCENTRATION DATA TO BE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS
IN REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRE DRAFTED BY STATISTICAL SUB-
GROUP. EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE
BEFORE SUMMER RECESS. U.K. SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRIES
WITH "READILY AVAILABLE" PENETRATION AND CONCENTRATION
DATA SUBMIT THEIRS TO SECRETARIAT, IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS
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POSSIBLE. THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA AND SCANDINAVIAN
DELS.

12. U.K. DELEGATION TABLED RATHER DETAILED CONFIDENTIAL
NOTE ON FOREIGN PENETRATION IN U.K. MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRIES. PAPER PREPARED IN CONTEXT OF U.K. INDUSTRY
BILL INDICATES CONCENTRATION FOR U.K. AS WHOLE AND CON-
CENTRATION OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY RELATIVE TO
U.K. INDUSTRY. CHAIRMAN PRAISED COMPREHENSIVE U.K.
EFFORT AND URGED MEMBER COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO
TO PREPARE SIMILAR STATEMENTS.

13. KEY FUNCTIONS OF MNE'S (REFS F AND G): THERE IS
ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF MATERIAL ON MNE KEY FUNCTIONS IN
MOST COUNTRIES. STUDY REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND
LEGISLATION REGARDING MNE'S, AS WELL AS DATA ON DEVELOP-
MENT OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
APPLICATION, MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, INTER-COMPANY PRIC-

ING, PURCHASING, AND SOURCE DECISIONS, ETC. THIS CLEARLY WELL BEYOND PRESENT CAPABILITIES OF GROUP. TO PROVIDE START, CANADA TABLED DRAFT DOCUMENT SUGGESTING (A) OUTLINE MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY WANT TO FOLLOW IN THEIR REPLIES TO REF (G) AND (B) USE OF MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONNAIRE ON KEY FUNCTIONS OF MNE'S. PAPER RECEIVED MIXED REACTION AND CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED AS TO CONFIDENTIALITY SAFEGUARDS FOR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL FIRMS TO COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, DELEGATES AGREED THAT IF DATA APPROPRIATELY AGGREGATED BY SECRETARIAT THEY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MNE IMPACT ON NATIONAL ECONOMIES (WITH SOME FEELING SUCH DATA MAY ALSO SUGGEST WHERE CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF FDI MIGHT BE USEFUL). CANADA AGREED TO PRODUCE PAPER FOR NEXT MEETING ON THEIR EXPERIENCE IN COLLECTING RELEVANT INFORMATION. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES WERE REQUESTED TO PREPARE INFORMAL STATEMENTS ON WHETHER INFORMATION PATTERNED ON CANADIAN DRAFT DOCUMENT A MIGHT BE OBTAINABLE.

14. FUTURE WORK PROGRAM: WP PLANS TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY THAT RECENT DETERIORATION OF ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY COUNTRIES HAS CAUSED MNE'S AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES ABROAD TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDES AND POLICIES IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTION EXPANSION, ETC., RESULTING IN PLANT SHUTDOWNS, LAYOFFS, SHORT WORK WEEKS. DELEGATIONS ASKED TO REPORT ORALLY TO NEXT MEETING ON SUCH INCIDENTS AND COMPARE MNE BEHAVIOR WITH THAT OF DOMESTIC COMPANIES. ALSO INCLUDED SHOULD BE KNOWN CASES WHERE INTENDED FDI'S WERE RECONSIDERED BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN IN HOME AND/OR HOST COUNTRY.

15. U.K. ALSO SUGGESTED DELS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EXTENT THEIR GOVERNMENTS REQUIRE MNE'S TO SUPPLY COMPANY INFORMATION AND ON DEGREE THESE DATA ARE RELEASED BY FIRMS VOLUNTARILY. THIS MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR WP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COMPANY DISCLOSURE PRACTICES. U.K. PROPOSAL ACCEPTED. WRITTEN REPLIES TO SECRETARIAT INVITED BY END OF MAY.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: AUSTRIAN DEL ZEMBSCH ELECTED WP-1 CHAIRMAN FOR THIRD ONE-YEAR TERM; GERMAN DEL BUCHNER-SCHOPP ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY MATTERS,

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AND U.K. DEL RICHARDSON VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR STATISTICS.

17. FUTURE MEETINGS: NEXT MEETING OF FULL WP SCHEDULED FOR JULY 2 THROUGH JULY 4. NO SEPARATE SESSIONS EXPECTED FOR INFORMAL STATISTICAL SUB-GROUP.

18. COMMENTS: THERE SEEMED TO BE A SUDDEN BURST OF VIGOR AMONG WP DELEGATES. SEVERAL USUALLY CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS -- E.G., U.K. AND GERMANY -- KEPT PUSHING FOR EARLIER DEADLINES, ADDITIONS OF NEW STUDY ITEMS, ON-THE-SPOT ASSESSMENTS, ETC. COMPLETION OF DRAFTING OF, AND AGREEMENT ON, FINAL WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR BASIC FOURTEEN STATISTICAL TERMS AFTER MANY MONTHS OF PAINFULLY SLOW-MOVING EFFORTS MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED SOME STIMULUS. ACCEPTANCE OF DEFINITIONS WELCOMED AS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN WP'S ENDEAVORS TO SET UP INTERNATIONALLY COMPARABLE MNE STATISTICS. MUCH OF CREDIT FOR THIS SHOULD GO TO LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY U.K. DELEGATE WHO CHAIRED STATISTICAL SUB-GROUP SESSIONS. ON OTHER HAND, EXAMINATION OF KEY FUNCTIONS OF MNE'S, DEGREE OF THEIR PENETRATION, AND CONCENTRATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND IMPACT ON HOST COUNTRY ECONOMIES CONTINUES TO BE SLOW, DUE AMONG UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER REASONS TO PRESENT LACK OF INFORMATION IN MOST COUNTRIES AND DIFFICULTY OF DEVELOPING DATA IN THIS COMPLEX AREA. HIGHLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER AMBITIONS OF SOME WP MEMBERS IN THIS RESPECT CAN BE REALIZED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, EVEN TO LIMITED EXTENT.

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